

**California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control**

**Public Notice
California Environmental Quality Act
Draft Negative Declaration For:**

**Proposed Regulations – Mercury Waste Classification and Management
DTSC Control Number R-02-04**

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requests public comments on its draft Negative Declaration for the adoption of proposed new regulations entitled “Mercury Waste Classification and Management.” The proposed regulations are not site specific and would be implemented statewide; the project location is the entire state of California.

The Mercury Waste Classification and Management regulations would create a new list of “California Only” hazardous wastes. The list would designate four categories of mercury-containing products as hazardous wastes when discarded:

1. Mercury-containing motor vehicle switches and vehicles that contain such switches;
2. Non-automotive mercury switches and products that contain such switches;
3. Mercury-containing lamps; and
4. Mercury-added novelties.

The proposed regulations would also designate ten categories of mercury-containing hazardous wastes, including three of the four newly identified hazardous wastes in this proposal, as universal wastes. (The fourth listed waste, mercury-containing lamps, can be managed as universal waste under existing regulations.) The categories of hazardous waste that would be eligible for management under the proposed universal wastes regulations are:

1. Mercury-containing motor vehicle switches and vehicles that contain such switches;
2. Non-automotive mercury switches and products that contain such switches;
3. Mercury-added novelties;
4. Dental amalgam wastes;
5. Mercury-containing pressure or vacuum gauges;
6. Mercury counterweights and dampers;
7. Mercury thermometers;
8. Mercury dilators;
9. Mercury-containing rubber flooring; and
10. Mercury-containing gas flow regulators.

Persons managing these wastes would be subject to the existing general standards for universal waste handlers, transporters, and destination facilities, as well as additional mercury-containing waste specific management standards established in the proposed

regulations.

The proposed universal waste management standards provide simple, cost-effective requirements for accumulation, storage, and transportation of mercury-containing universal wastes. They focus on proper ultimate recycling or disposal of universal wastes, and require that all recycling and disposal of universal wastes occur at a permitted hazardous waste facility. After completing an initial study, DTSC has determined that adopting the Mercury Waste Classification and Management regulations will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore, DTSC has prepared a draft Negative Declaration for these regulations.

The draft Negative Declaration, the Initial Study, the proposed regulations (the project), and associated regulatory documentation can be inspected at the addresses below and can be downloaded from DTSC's Internet site at: www.dtsc.ca.gov under "Laws, Regulations and Policies."

Copies of the draft Negative Declaration are available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

Cal/EPA
DTSC Headquarters
Contact: André Algazi
1001 I Street, 2nd floor (Library)
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
(916) 324-3114; or
aalgazi@dtsc.ca.gov

Sacramento Regional Office
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200
(916) 255-3545

Northern California Field Office
Berkeley Regional Office
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-2122

Glendale Regional Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551-2800

Cypress Regional Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5302

Clovis Field Office
1515 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-3901

Comments will be accepted on the draft Negative Declaration beginning on August 30, 2002 until the close of business on September 30, 2002; comments should be submitted by mail to the DTSC headquarters address, above, and should be postmarked no later than September 30, 2002. A public hearing on the proposed regulations will be held on Monday, September 30, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in the Central Valley Auditorium on the 2nd floor of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Building, 1001 "I" Street, Sacramento.